

COUNTRY Hungary  
 TOPIC 8th Motorized Rifle Regiment in Piliscsaba  
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 REMARKS 25X1

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1. Up to August 1951, the 8th Itz Rifle Regiment in Piliscsaba (Q 40/H 34) was subordinate to a tank division, whose headquarters was located in Esztergom (Q 40/Z 27). [ ] ascertained this subordination by a remark made by the division commander, who held the rank of colonel. [ ] (1) A motorized rifle unit in Metsag (Q 40/H 67), a motorized rifle regiment in Aszod (Q 40/H 83) and a tank and SP artillery unit in Esztergom Tabor (Q 40/Z 26) were also subordinate to the tank division. (2) Two other motorized rifle units, to which soldiers of the 8th Itz Rifle Regiment were reassigned and vice versa, were known in Eger (R 40/J 55) and Miskolc (R 49/J 87). (3)

2. Prior to 5 May 1951, the regiment was located in the North and South Camps east of Piliscsaba and on both sides of the road from Budapest to Esztergom. On 5 May 1951, the regiment, except for the tank battalion, was moved to a summer camp, about 5 km southeast of Pilisszentkereszt (Q 40/H 44). (4)

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3. Personalities of the regiment [ ] included Major Szilard Dimitrievics, about 50 years old, regimental commander, Communist, who was said to have joined the armed forces only four years ago; Captain Lencse (fnu), about 45 years old, political officer; Junior Lieutenants Bednyanszki (fnu) and Erdelyi (fnu), regimental adjutants; Major Toth (fnu), about 42 years old, chief of staff of the regimental headquarters and actual leader of the regiment; Senior Lieutenant Myilas (fnu), about 30 years old, operations officer; Captain Somkutas (fnu), about 45 years old, supply officer; Lieutenant Lajos Nagy, sports officer; Lieutenant Vanek (fnu), about 40 years old, signal officer; Captain Simon Horvath, about 50 years old, commander of the 1st Bn; Major Pusztai (fnu), about 45 years old, commander of the 2d Bn; and Senior Lieutenant Sendor Acel, about 34 years old, commander of the 3d Bn. According to comrades, the camp in Piliscsaba was visited by Lieutenant General Sendor Horvati, who was accompanied by three Soviet officers, in March 1951. (5)

4. The regiment was largely organized into the headquarters, which controlled the signal company, the AT company, the 70-mm gun battery, the medium mortar battery, the AA machine gun company, the submachine gun company, the reconnaissance platoon, the engineer platoon, the regimental band and the supply service group; the 1st, 2d and 3d Itz Rifle Bns; and one tank battalion.

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5. The staff of the regimental headquarters included the regimental commander, 1 political officer, 2 regimental adjutants, 1 operations officer, 1 artillery commander, 1 signal officer, 1 cryptographer officer, 1 counter-intelligence officer, formerly D-officer, 1 sports officer, 1 security office director, and an undetermined number of clerks. In the signal company were 5 officers and 127 EM. The AT company was equipped with three 45-mm and three 57-mm AT guns. The gun battery was equipped with 76-mm guns, three of which were observed by the sources. Three or four 120-mm mortars were observed with the medium mortar company, which was said to include one reconnaissance and one telephone platoon. The AA machine gun company was equipped with 10 to 12 AA machine guns of about 12-mm. The submachine gun company was organized into three 3-squad submachine gun platoons. Each squad consisted of the squad leader, the light machine gunner and seven submachine gunners. The company was said also to include one heavy machine gun platoon. The reconnaissance platoon had 1 officer and 18 EM organized into three squads; each squad was equipped with one light machine gun. The engineer platoon, which was in Estergom for training from November 1950 to July 1951, was equipped with eight medium pneumatic boats and about ten swimming suits. The regimental band included approximately 25 men. The supply service group, which did not belong to the regimental headquarters proper but was subordinate to the supply officer in every respect, numbered about 150 soldiers. It included the supply officer and his deputy, one ration supply director and his deputy, the two head cooks of the North and South Camps, 20 more cooks, 1 clothing supply director, 1 clothing supply NCO and his deputy, 6 tailors, 12 shoemakers, 1 paymaster and 3 soldiers detached to the paymaster's office, 1 motor transport officer, 4 motor maintenance NCOs, 13 automobile mechanics, 1 regimental surgeon, 2 other surgeons, 4 EM of the medical service, and the commander and 2 drivers of the ambulance unit. (6)

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6. The 3d Bn [ ] was in the North Camp [ ] It was organized into the headquarters including 1 submachine gun platoon, 1 AT platoon, and 1 signal platoon; 1 rifle company; 1 machine gun company; and 1 light mortar company. The battalion headquarters included the battalion commander; Senior Lieutenant Kadar (fnu), political officer; 1 adjutant; 1 operations officer; 1 party secretary; 1 secretary of the DISZ (Federation of the Working Youth); 3 clerks; 2 bicycle messengers, 1 other messenger; 1 master sergeant; and an undetermined number of drivers. The submachine gun platoon numbered 7 men. The AT platoon numbered 7 or 8 men and was equipped with one 45-mm AT gun. Despite their low strengths, both units were referred to as platoons. The signal platoon, commanded by Junior Lieutenant Jozsef Fekete, included 1 officer and 20 EM. [ ] ( For details on this platoon, see special report ). The rifle company was organized into the headquarters, three rifle platoons, and one machine gun platoon. Each rifle platoon consisted of three squads equipped with one light machine gun each. The machine gun platoon consisted of three squads equipped with one machine gun each. The company numbered approximately 100 men. The machine gun company, commanded by Lieutenant Kriska (fnu), was organized into the headquarters and 4 platoons of 3 squads, each of which was equipped with one machine gun. There were five men in each machine gun squad. The light mortar company, commanded by Junior Lieutenant Vass (fnu), consisted of the headquarters and two platoons, each of which was equipped with three 82-mm mortars. In the 3d Bn were 350 to 400 men. (7)

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7. According to soldiers of the 1st and 2d Litz Rifle Bns, the organization and the strengths of these units corresponded to those of the 3d Bn. [ ] The signal platoon of the 1st Bn was commanded by Junior Lieutenant Andrasi (fnu). The submachine gun platoon of this battalion was commanded by Junior Lieutenant Horvath (fnu), a reserve officer.

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8. The tank battalion comprised about 30 men. About 14 T-34 tanks were stored in the tank garage. Sources never observed more than two tanks moving out of the camp. (8)
9. The regiment had about 350 small trucks of a loading capacity of 0.5 to 0.75 tons. The supply service group was equipped with about 12 3-ton Kaba trucks. Two GAZ sedans and two jeeps were also available. [redacted] An unidentified number of motor vehicles belonged to the HS series.
10. The regiment had German-type gas masks with an air filter of a 6-hour duration. In July 1951, an unidentified number of Model M-51 gas masks were demonstrated. This model, which was said to have a 24-hour duration, was a rubber-made mask without fastening bands, which was pulled over the head. The mask had a corrugated rubber hose leading to the air filter, which was laterally carried in a sort of musette bag. Special stress was laid on training with gas masks. By late July 1951, every soldier of the regiment was expected to be able to perform duty for four hours with his gas mask on. The soldiers were told the Americans were using in Korea a sleep-inducing gas which is innocuous to the human body.
11. The pneumatic boats operated by the regimental engineer platoon weighed 92 kg each. Each boat had a capacity of as many as 11 men including their equipment.
12. The majority of the EM consisted of members of the 1929 and 1930 classes inducted in October 1950. An unidentified percentage of the men belonged to the 1925, 1926 and 1927 classes. (9)
13. The bad discipline prevailing in the regiment was not meliorated despite numerous orders and leave and furlough restrictions. The EM showed open disrespect to the officers because of their limited technical knowledge. Frequently orders were disobeyed, but the violators were rarely punished. Officers, too, tried to evade their responsibilities whenever possible.
14. The central army prison in Budapest was continuously overcrowded. Soldiers awaiting trial were reassigned to their units. After being sentenced, they were taken to special army labor camps, where they received adequate rations and were even paid for their work. One army penal labor camp was located in Kecskemet (Y 6/W 95).
15. In general, all of the members of the regiment, including regimental units, wore blue service color. Exceptions were the regimental artillery commander, who wore red service color; the regimental motor transport officer, who wore vermilion service color; the supply officer, who wore bordeaux service color; the regimental surgeon, who wore black service color; the director of the security office, who wore gray service color; and the men of the regimental engineer platoon, who wore dark-green service color. In general, crossed rifles were worn as branch-of-service insignia. Exceptions were the regimental commander, the political officer and the men of the tank battalion, who wore small tank insignia; the men of all signal units, who wore lightning cluster insignia; the men of the engineer platoon, who wore anchor-with-cable insignia; the regimental artillery commander as well as the men of the AAA, AT and mortar units, who wore insignia consisting of three balls topped by crossed gun barrels; the motor transport officer and the motor maintenance NCOs, who wore winged-wheel-with-arrow insignia; the men of the supply service group, who wore insignia consisting of a grain ear and a wheeled hammer arranged crosswise; the regimental surgeon, who wore the emblem of the people's republic on a gold button; and the commander of the ambulance unit, who wore insignia consisting of a white square including a red cross and bounded by a black border on blue background. (10)

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16. Winter clothing issued to every soldier included 1 overcoat, 1 blouse, 1 pair of trousers, 1 pair of boots and 1 cap. A set of summer clothing consisted of 1 drill blouse, 2 pairs of drill trousers and 1 summer cap, the "Pilotka", which resembled the Soviet-type summer cap. Since only a limited number of dress uniforms were available, soldiers returning from leave had to turn in their dress uniforms. Occasionally looking into the regimental clothing storage, the sources observed only a limited stock of clothing.
17. New-style uniforms were issued for the 1 May review. They consisted of a green, Soviet-type steel helmet; a shirt-blouse, the "Ginnastorka", made of rough gray-green linen, equipped with two pockets with flaps, four buttons, removable buttoning sleeve cuffs and turn-down collars, and worn over the trousers; a pair of trousers made of the same fabric to be tucked into the boots; and a pair of boots with black gummed-linen legs. After the review, the new-style uniforms were turned in again. However, the sources had already seen numerous members of the armed forces in Budapest who wore the new-style uniforms. A friend of one of the sources, who served with an artillery unit in Dobbovar (Y 5/3 16), wore the new-style uniform when he was on leave in the summer of 1951. The new-style officer's insignia for officers with ranks from junior lieutenant up to captain were already worn in the regiment. (11)
18. The meals lacked fat and were unappetizing. After a short period of time, the men were forbidden to have parcels sent by their families. The bread ration was 600 grams per day. During the first months, salted bacon was issued as supper. In its raw condition the bacon was not eatable. The daily pay was 2.- forints for privates, 2.60 forints for lance corporals, 3.20 forints for corporals and 3.60 forints for staff lance corporals.
19. The period of basic training was six weeks. During this period, signal training was started in the signal platoon of the 3d Bn. The men were sworn in on 21 December 1950. (12) In January and February 1951, monthly march exercises involving the entire regiment, except for the tank battalion, were held in the area north and northeast of Piliscsaba. The second exercise was based on the assumption of fighting enemy paratroopers who had dropped into the area. During the exercises, the light weapons including the signal equipment were carried by the men. The AT guns involved were towed by motor vehicles. Each unit was accompanied by only one officer. The rest of the officers followed the units in motor vehicles. The men were bitter about this.
20. From 26 March to 2 April 1951, a command-post exercise for field officers was held in the area around Kiskunmajsa (Y 6/11 90). Signal units of the 8th Mtz Rifle Regt, one signal unit from Ketsag and one from Aszod, both of which wore blue service color, and one signal unit from Esztergom, which wore red service color, took part in the exercise. Submachine gun and engineer units, whose posts were not identified, were also involved. The duties of the signal units were confined to laying out the signal network. The equipment was operated by the officers participating in the exercise. The officers of the 8th Mtz Rifle Regt participating in this exercise included the regimental commander, the chief of staff of the regimental headquarters, the artillery commander and the signal officer. (13)
21. Between 25 April and 30 May 1951, small groups of reserve officers were constantly assigned to the regiment. They were mainly junior lieutenants, but also included a limited number of senior lieutenants; after taking a reserve officers' training course, they were assigned to other units. In early August 1951, these officers were still on duty with the regiment. Almost all of them were factory workers and members of the former Hungarian Armed Forces.
22. In March 1951, one rifle company of the regiment equipped with live ammunition was moved to the Hungarian-Yugoslav border in the southern part of the country. According to one of the company, other units were employed on both flanks of their unit. Yugoslav maneuvers held in the border area at that time were

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cited as the reason for the commitment of the units. The rifle company returned to the camp about one month later. In May 1951, the AT company of the regiment with all its weapons was moved to the Hungarian-Yugoslav border for approximately one week. The company moved into positions near the border and was accommodated in tents.

23. In the summer camp of the regiment near Pilisszentkereszt the units were accommodated in Hungarian and American 40-man tents. Maneuvers were not started prior to early August 1951. According to the platoon leader of the sources, it was planned to build a cadre regiment in the fall of 1951. The regiment was to be billeted in one of the barracks installations west of Pestszentloerinc (Q 48/H 61) and south of Uelloei Street.

Observations made at the 1 May Review 1951.

24. The 8th Mtz Rifle Regt participated in the 1 May review and was billeted in the new barracks installations near Pestszentloerinc. The headquarters of an AAA regiment was located in permanent quarters in the eastern barracks installation, which was already completed. (14) Sources observed an unidentified number of canvas-covered AA guns mounted on four-wheeled chassis. For the period of the review, a heavy artillery unit, at which eight guns of about 200 mm. mounted on four rubber-tire twin wheels were observed, was billeted in the same installation. This unit came from Jaszbereny (Q 48/J 11), in sources' opinion. (15) The units participating in the review included the infantry officer candidate school from Pecs (Y 5/S 22), an artillery officer candidate school from Budapest, a tank officer candidate school from Tata (P 48/Y 94) and a supply service officer candidate school from an undetermined post. AVH units from Szeged (Y 7/T 17) wearing blue service color marched ahead of the 8th Mtz Rifle Regt. (16)

Registration for the Draft and Inducting Process.

25. On 21 September 1950, [ ] received a summons from the municipality of Dabronc (P 48/E 17) to appear before the registration staff in the Party building in Sueneg (Y 4/D 26) on 7 October 1950. The registration staff included 1 senior lieutenant, 1 lieutenant, 2 medical officers, 1 AVH junior lieutenant, the burgomaster, and several civilians. The AVH junior lieutenant interviewed [ ] the others on the general situation in their home municipality. The draftees were asked which branch of service they preferred. Finally, they were sworn in. Having taken this oath, the draftees had the status of personnel of the armed forces and would be considered deserters in case of their flight. Two out of the 30 individuals of the 1929 and 1930 classes from Dabronc who had appeared before the registration staff were rejected as unfit. The registration staff in Mosonszentjanos (P 48/Y 05), who had jurisdiction [ ] came from the Frigyes Barracks in Gyoeer (P 48/I 44). [ ]

26. [ ] received a notice of induction [ ] to the Keszthely (Y 4/V 40) reception center on 24 October 1950. Eight out of the ten other inductees from Dabronc who reported at the same center were sent back; two of these eight individuals were released because their fathers were dead; the rest were rejected because they were not needed by the Army. People who had asked the registration staff to be assigned to the air force or the paratroopers had not been inducted by late July 1951. About 600 men from the Keszthely reception center were assigned to the motorized rifle unit in Pilisszaba. They were referred to as Group No 4. The figures assigned to the individual groups ranged from 1 to 6. Groups of inductees were also assigned to an AAA unit in Ferihegy, on the southeastern perimeter of Budapest, an infantry unit in Kiskunmajsa and an AVH unit in Szeged.

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25X1 [ ] was notified to report to the Gyöer reception center. The notice of induction bore a red figure. Figures used at the Gyöer reception center included 1, referring to an AVH unit in Szeged; 2, referring to AVH border guard troops; 3, referring to the signal corps of the motorized rifle unit in Piliscsaba; 4, referring to the submachine gun company of the motorized rifle unit in Piliscsaba; 5, referring to an undetermined unit; 6, referring to the rifle company of the motorized rifle unit in Piliscsaba; 7 and 8, referring to undetermined units; and 9, referring to [ ]

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Comments.

- (1) A previous report of March 1951 mentioned tank troops in Piliscsaba. [ ]
- 25X1 [ ]
- 25X1 In view of reports of 1949 the headquarters of a mechanized division or a tank division is carried in Esztergom. [ ]
- (2) A motorized infantry unit in Aszod was mentioned in previous reports, last in February 1951. [ ] This unit was believed to belong to a mechanized or tank division in Gyöngyös. Several previous reports mentioned a tank unit in Esztergom Tabor. [ ] It is believed that source failed to list all component units of the division in Esztergom.
- (3) A previous report of March 1951 stated that the Szarvas Barracks in Eger was occupied by an infantry unit. [ ] No recent reports have mentioned an infantry unit in Miskolc.
- (4) For sketches of Camps Piliscsaba and Pilisszentkereszt, see Annexes 2-4.
- (5) A Captain Toth commanded the 1st Bn of the 1st Tank Regt in Esztergom in July 1949. He may be identical with the officer mentioned in the present report. Kopradi is deputy national defense minister.
- 25X1 (6) The high degree of adaptation to Soviet tables of organization appears from the establishment of a supply service group as a separate unit.
- (7) It is presumed that the building of the regiment is not yet completed.
- 25X1 (8) Additional rifle companies are believed to be assigned to the battalions.
- (9) Crews of only 80 men are absolutely insufficient to man 34 tanks.
- 25X1 (10) The present report mentions no members of the 1928 class although that class is not due for discharge before the fall of 1951.
- (11) The service colors mentioned in the present report correspond to previous reports. [ ] Apparently, there are no standard regulations as yet on whether one uniform service color or different branch-of-service colors should be worn by the individual units of a regiment.
- 25X1 (12) The present report confirms an identical previous report by another source.
- 25X1 [ ] According to a previous report, an artillery regiment and a motorized AT battalion [ ] are located in Dombóvár.
- (13) For the oath [ ]
- 25X1 (14) The exercise mentioned in the present report is fairly definitely believed to have been held at division level by the division in Esztergom.
- (15) Several previous reports mentioned an AAA unit in Pestszentlőrinc. [ ]
- 25X1 (16) Soviet-type 152-mm field howitzers may have been seen. However, no reports mentioning an artillery unit in Jászberény have as yet been received.
- (17) The infantry officer candidate school in Pécs and an AVH regiment in Szeged were mentioned in previous reports. [ ]

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